Medal of Honor recipients visit CFAY customer appreciation day

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

The Navy Exchange, Morale Welfare and Recreation, The Defense Commissary Agency commissary and other local organizations on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka held their annual costumer appreciation weekend May 19 and 20.

The weekend festivities included giveaways, prizes, contests, food, magic and more. The commissary held its case lot sale and many people showed up to buy items in bulk and the food court served ice cream, hot dogs and more.

Two special guests also attended the event and drew a crowd of people; Medal of Honor recipients Retired Staff Sgt. Don Jenkins and Retired Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Stumpf, both veterans who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

"We never got to do anything like this or see anything like this when I was in the army. We went straight from basic training to [advanced individual training], from there to Vietnam and then you were in the field and I was there for three years," said Jenkins. "It gives me a lot of pride to meet today's service members. They always want to come up and shake my hand, ask me questions and talk. I ask them where they are from and how they are doing. We all go way with smiles."

The Navy Exchange sponsored Jenkins and Stumpf on the trip to CFAY. The Navy Service Command in Virginia brings others like them to different commands every year. Jenkins has done two tours with the group while Stumpf has done several. Each trip they visit various commands to meet with local service and community members.

"I think this a great event. It's great that they bring us, some Medal of Honor recipients, some venders, and some entertainment and we go see people who serve in these far away places," said Stumpf. "I've been to Guantanamo Bay, Guam and Honolulu on the way to Yokosuka. We go to customer appreciation days or whatever they have setup and we have a good time talking to people. I like passing on what I have experienced to the [non-commissioned officers] and I like hearing what the young people have to say."

While meeting people that came to their booth inside the CFAY main exchange, the two signed by their page in the book "Medal of Honor Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty" by Nick Del Calzo and Peter Collier. They also signed anything else people wanted signed and talked to each guest.

"Before I was in the Navy I was a history major and I have always been fascinated with military history," said Machinist Mate 2nd Class Kyle Tibout, of *USS George Washington* (CVN 73). "There are only few people who are alive that have the Medal of Honor. I think this was a real honor to meet them and I think [the signed book] will be a great gift to my kids or grandkids to show them who these people were."

Retired Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Stumpf, who received a Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War, talks with Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Kyle Tibout, *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Sailor, in the CFAY main exchange during Customer Appreciation Weekend May 19. Navy Exchange sponsored Stumpf and Retired Staff Sgt. Don Jenkins, also a Medal of Honor recipient, on the base to meet local Sailors and community members as part of its customer appreciation weekend.

More information on Jenkins' and Stumpf's actions and heroism can be found at http://www.history.army.mil/moh.html.

"Some times being way out here, you can feel a little discouraged but when [the Exchange] brings [Jenkins and Stumpf] out, I reminds you of why we are here," Gloria Zarate, spouse of *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 17) Sailor. "It's amazing what they went through and I'm glad I got to meet them."

The Medal of Honor recipients could only stay for Saturday. The customer appreciation weekend festivities continued on Sunday with other festivities.

Military medical students get a lesson in history, heritage

By Emily Greene, health.mil

September 17, 1862 marks the bloodiest one-day battle in American History. The Civil War Battle of Antietam left 23,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing after 12 hours of savage combat on a battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md.

Nearly 150 years later, first year medical students at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) marched across Antietam Battlefield, learning the history and heritage of military medicine marked by the actions and decisions of Civil War medical personnel.

Students from all services were brought face-to-face with the realities of war and the importance of the role they have chosen to pursue as military medical doctors.

Navy Capt. Trueman Sharp, chair of the Department of Military Emergency Medicine at USUHS said this annual trip to Antietam Battlefield is an important part of the education of first year students.

"The Civil War marks a turning point for battlefield medicine, especially in regards to logistics," Sharp explained. "Many of the lessons learned here and throughout the rest of the war resulted in advances across the medical community for years to come."

As the students traveled across the battlefield, the brutality of war wounds and challenges faced by Civil War era doctors and nurses emerged through lessons taught by USUHS faculty and National Museum of Civil War Medicine volunteers. Topics included the types and severity of wounds, issues of disease and sanitation, medical tools and the context of the war raging around the doctors as they worked.

"It is important for these students to understand the context of the battle and how medicine is intertwined in more ways than simply addressing wounds," Sharp said.

Navy Lt. Brian Andrews-Shigaki, assistant professor at the Department of Military Emergency Medicine at USUHS, coordinated the field trip.

He said the medical lessons of the Civil War provide students with a context for contemporary studies.

"It all started here," Andrews-Shigaki said. "As the students see this battlefield and hear the experiences of doctors in the past, they gain a better understanding of what they are learning in school now."

The students listened intently at one of their stops where they were presented with a real-life example of the advances made since the Civil War.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Todd Hammond, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, was severely wounded in Afghanistan in 2011. His right leg was severed below the knee and he now wears a prosthetic.

Hammond described his experience to the student group, explaining how he was quickly treated and moved after his injury. He spoke about his recovery and showed the students the scars that remain. His visceral account was a stark contrast to the experiences of wounded soldiers at Antietam.

"Our hope is that the students who are here today will walk away with a better understanding of the history and heritage of their chosen profession," Sharp said. "Understanding the richness of these elements makes them better physicians and better officers."